

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2177

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 1049

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PKOR YO BU UR

SUBJ: NEW MACEDONIAN HEAT

1. THE BUBBLING DISPUTE BETWEEN YUGOSLAVIA AND BULGARIA OVER WHETHER THERE ARE MACEDONIANS OR JUST BULGARIANS HAS GAINED NEW HEAT WITH YUGOSLAVIA REACTING STRONGLY TO THE BULGARIAN STEP OF DECORATING A YUGOSLAV MACEDONIAN POLITICAL EMIGRE, POET VENKO MARKOVSKI, AS A ""SOCIALIST LABOR HERO".

2. A TANJUG COMMENTARY FILED FROM SOFIA (FUL TEXT PRESUMABLY AVAILABLE VIA FBIS) REFERRED WITH SARCASM TO MARKOVSKI AS "THIS GREAT BULGARIAN (WHO) UP TO NOW ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS CHANGED HIS NATIONAL FEELING AND POLITICAL ORIENTATION", AND POINTED OUT THAT THE BULGARIANS HAD FAILED TO MENTION THE TWO DECADES MARKOVSKI LIVED AND WORKED IN SKOPJE OR THAT HE WAS IMPRISONED THERE FOR HOSTILE ACTIVITIES AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA.

3. SAYING THAT THIS ACTION IS A CONTINUATION OF THE BULGARIAN POLICY OF FAVORING "POLITICAL INFORM BUREAU EMIGRANTS", TANJUG SAYS THE NUMBER IS "NOT SMALL" OF YUGOSLAV EMIGRANTS WHO PLAY AN "OUTSTANDING ROLE" IN BULGARIAN POLITICAL LIFE.

4. TANJUG MAR 7 ALSO CARRIED THE TEXT OF A VECER (SKOPJE) ARTICLE

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SAYING THAT IN THE "INTENSIFYING CAMPAIGN AGAINST MACEDONIANS" THE

BULGARIANS ARE GLORIFYING "POLITICAL EMIGRES AND RENEGADES OF YUGOSLAV SOCIALIST DEVELOPMENT".

5. AND VECERNJE NOVOSTI MAR 7 HAS A PAGE TWO EDITORIAL CARTOON WHICH SHOWS A LEERING BULGAR SITTING ON A MAP OF THE BALKANS, HIS REAR END ON PIRINE MACEDONIA AND HIS RIGHT HAND INSERTED INTO THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA, REPRESENTED AS A POCKET ON THE BOTTOM OF YUGOSLAVIA.

6. WE NOTE WITH INTEREST THAT THE ASSOCIATED PRESS STRINGER IN BELGRADE BORISLAV BOSKOVIC, WHO IS A YUGOSLAV CITIZEN AND THEREFORE GENERALLY CONCEDED TO BE SOMEWHAT LESS INDEPENDENT THAN HIS WESTERN COLLEAGUES, MAR 7 FILED A LENGTHY STORY ON THE CURRENT DISPUTE WHICH HE ENDS BY QUOTING "FOREIGN OBSERVERS" IN BELGRADE AS SAYING "YUGOSLAV CONCERN OVER BULGARIAN ACTIONS IS CLOSELY LINKED WITH THE GENERAL BELIEF THAT BULGARIA NEVER ACTS WITHOUT SOVIET EXPLICIT APPROVAL. FOREIGN DIPLOMATS THINK THAT THE FLARING OF THE YUGOSLAV-BULGARIAN CONFLICT COULD POSSIBLY INDICATE THAT YUGOSLAV-SOVIET RELATIONS, OFFICIALLY DESCRIBED AS VERY GOOD, ARE WORSENING".
TOON

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